



Scientific Linux CERN 6: certification

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- Linux Certification Committee:
 - Manage change.
 - Involve all (major) stakeholders.
 - Define environments.
 - Survey testing.
 - Provide feedback.
 - Coordinate.
 - Declare a Linux version as Certified:
 - Recommended and supported.
 - 'Fit' for production usage.

- Main CERN Linux user communities nominate representatives.
- Representatives define environments, making their dependencies/requirements explicit.
 - Committee ensures that conflicting requirements are resolved and resulting CERN Linux platform is as uniform as possible.
- Representatives monitor progress of dependencies, perform acceptance tests in their environments and report back issues.

- Once an environment passes acceptance tests it's certification is achieved.
- Once all environments are certified the certification is over.
 - Note: It may not be possible or useful to certify given environment or part of it: in such cases the Committee shall take a decision.

[Role/process have been described/defined during various 2001/2002 meetings.]

- Mostly yes:
 - SLC3 has been certified, then SLC4 then SLC5.
- But:
 - Perhaps we could improve the process ?
 - By proposing a **Timeline** since the beginning ?
 - **Tentative**
 - **Adjustable**
 - By loosening a little the tight coupling between environments ?
 - Maybe we could distinguish ‘certified for generic desktop/server’ from ‘certified for environment X’ ?
 - Could be useful in the virtualization / clouds era ...

- Alpha/Test1: December 2010, Beta: in **February 2011**
- **We – Linux Support – would like to:**
 - Supply SLC6 production release certified at least for generic desktop/server usage in **June 2011**
 - Make SLC6 fully certified before **2011 end**.
 - Needed ?
 - Avoid lock-in in too old version as with SLC4 ...
 - Realistic ?
 - Depends on **YOUR** planning and participation ...

Have we started the previous certification round too late ?

- RHEL 5 was released in March 2007
- We certified SLC5 in January 2010
- SLC5 deployment will be complete by mid-2011 (*)
- RHEL 6 was released in November 2010
- Will we certify SLC6 in 2011 ?
- Could SLC6 be fully deployed before mid-2013 ? (*)

(*) - not taking into account accelerator / experiment controls

- Linux Support proposed/planned changes
 - Comparing to RHEL 6: **NONE** (if possible)
 - Of course: usual add-ons as for other SLC versions.
 - Comparing to SLC5:
 - More compact ‘CERN recommended setup’ avoiding unnecessary duplication of software (ie: multiple desktop environments installed by default).
 - Using more of external 3rd party repositories and avoiding duplicating packages available from there.
 - Providing support for security-only updates as an option.
- Other changes: everything that changed between RHEL 5 and 6.

- Please review / (re)define your environment
 - <http://cern.ch/linux/scientific6/cert/>
 - .. and let Linux Support know !
- Communication channels:
 - linux-certification-coordination@cern.ch
 - Committee members only, self-subscription closed.
 - Note: content (archives) is public.
 - linux-certification@cern.ch
 - Public list for discussion: everybody interested in certification can subscribe.



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